



Approved August 11, 2011

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, June 2, 2011

**Granite Reef Senior Center, Room 8
1700 N. Granite Reef Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85257**

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

PRESENT: Howard Myers, Chairman
James Heitel, Vice Chairman
Fred Klein, Commissioner
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner
Linda Whitehead, Commissioner
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner (left at 6:00 p.m.)

ABSENT: BJ Heggli, Commissioner
Deke Joralmon, Commissioner
Melinda Gulick, Commissioner
Carla, Commissioner
Gerald Miller, Commissioner

STAFF: Bill Murphy
Kroy Ekblaw
Claire Miller
Robbin Schweitzer
Scott Hamilton
Robin Rogers

GUESTS: Mike Nolan
Phil Waddell (phonetic)
Marg Nelssen
David Hay
Jim Chamberland

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Joint Work Study Session minutes of May 5, 2011

COMMISSIONER HUBBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2011 JOINT WORK STUDY SESSION MINUTES. SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR HEITEL, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS CARLA, GULICK, HEGGLI, JORALMON, AND MILLER WERE ABSENT.

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of May 5, 2011

Commissioner Whitehead requested that the minutes specify the month of October as the time frame for reinstituting the Mayor/Council breakfast.

COMMISSIONER KLEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR HEITEL, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS CARLA, GULICK, HEGGLI, JORALMON, AND MILLER WERE ABSENT.

5. **MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE**

Mr. Nolan mentioned the success of the extended Pathfinders activities and said that in the future interested Pathfinders will be encouraged to continue their service through the month of May.

Mr. Jones updated the Commission on activities involved with the biological inventory project, noting that specimens are being sent to the local herbariums. The Southwest Environmental Information Network at ASU is being used as a tool to provide information to other stewards and collectors about what is being collected, as well as archived information from past studies. The goal is to establish a baseline flora of the species now in the Preserve for use as comparison and verification in the future. Mr. Nolan noted that the animal work beginning in August will be based on association with the various plant populations.

6. STAFF REPORTS

- **Tom's Thumb Update**

Mr. Hamilton said that the plans are being finalized and the goal is to bring a construction contract to City Council in late August. Completion is anticipated to be in May of 2012.

- **Brown's Ranch Update**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the planning progress, including specific meeting dates, noting that construction should begin in early 2012 with an anticipated opening in early 2013.

Mr. Waddell provided a background for the design process, which is based on items that are distinctive characteristics of the North Preserve. He reviewed the plans, including the trailhead location, constraints, mapping, and the parking and staging area.

Commissioners were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and make recommendations. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the appropriate number of equestrian parking stalls.

Chair Myers suggested that because of time constraints the Commission discuss the DDC Phase III and the Off Leash Enforcement before continuing through the agenda.

- **North Area Update - Fire Watch & 118th Street**

Following discussion about the DDC Phase III and the Off-Leash Enforcement, discussion on agenda items continued.

Mr. Murphy explained that an internal team consisting of representatives from the police and fire departments, communications, and Preserve staff is working on a management plan that will be implemented following the State Land Use Permit approval by Council, which is scheduled to be heard on July 5, 2011.

Ms. Miller reviewed fire safety and signage plans for the Preserve, focusing on plans for the 4th of July. She noted that the Preserve entry gates will be closed at 3:00 p.m. on the 4th of July as has been done in the past.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the SLUP area and signage along 136th Street.

- **Financial Update**

Discussion tabled due to loss of quorum

Update from City Council Meeting re: Boards & Commissions (continued to July 6, 2011)

7. COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

- **Promotion Subcommittee**

Discussion tabled due to loss of quorum

- **Land Resources Task Force**

Discussion tabled due to loss of quorum

- **Desert Discovery Center Phase III Feasibility Committee**

Mr. Ekblaw listed the names of the Committee members and reviewed the items agendaized for the next few months, noting that the monthly meetings will be held at SkySong. A recommendation is expected to be forwarded to City Council by the end of the year.

8. 128th STREET EXISTING TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Discussion tabled due to loss of quorum.

9. OFF-LEASH ENFORCEMENT IN PRESERVE

Discussion ensued regarding concerns about off-leash enforcement and the best way to educate users about keeping dogs leashed and picking up after the animals on trails and throughout the Preserve. Suggestions included having the Pathfinders distribute informational postcards, which are already available, in addition to the existing signage, working with area HOAs, word of mouth, and involving other dog owners in helping with enforcement.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Discussion tabled due to loss of quorum.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR JULY 2011

Discussion tabled due to loss of quorum.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned due to a loss of quorum at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.